

Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 PC-15 USIE-00 IO-14 DODE-00

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RSC-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 DRC-01 /183 W

----- 090673

O 101250Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7255

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME NIACT IMMEDIATE

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: FEI AND MIT VISITS TO SAHEL

REF: STATE 222072; BAMAKO 3463; OUAGA 2310

FOR JOINT STATE/AID ATTENTION FROM AMBASSADOR

FOR FEI

1. DAKOURE LEAVING OUAGADOUGOU FOR FAO/ROME TUESDAY AFTERNOON, NOV. 13. EXPECTS BE JOINED THERE BY OTHER FIVE MEMBERS OF CILSS MINISTERIAL COUNCIL AND SPEND ABOUT SEVEN DAYS. SAHEL DROUGHT ITEM WILL COME UP FOR DISCUSSION ON FAO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA FRIDAY 16TH. DAKOURE WISHED TO PROPOSE 17TH FOR MEETING WITH FEI.

2. I INFORMED DAKOURE THAT FEI AND HOBSON WOULD BE ALREADY THERE AND SUGGESTED THEY GET TOGETHER WITH HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER HIS ARRIVAL. HE AGREED.

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3. I CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT THAT THIS MEETING NOT FALL

THROUGH THE CRACKS. MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT DAKOURE IS EXTRAORDINARILY COMPLEX AND SENSITIVE INDIVIDUAL WHO IS KEY TO SUCCESSFUL INTRODUCTION OF MIT INTO SAHEL REGION. KONATE IS NOT RPT NOT CILSS. KONATE IS HEAD OF CILSS TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT. KONATE AND TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT REPORT TO DAKOURE AND TO CILSS. IF WE GO TOO FAR DOWN THE ROAD WITH KONATE ON IMPORTANT QUESTIONS LIKE MIT VISIT WITHOUT ASSURING THAT DAKOURE KNOWS AND APPROVES OF WHAT WE ARE DOING, WE UNDERMINE KONATE'S POSITION, WEAKEN HIS FUTURE USEFULNESS TO US AND OTHERS, AND RUN THE RISK OF PREJUDICING SUCCESSFUL ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR PROGRAM OBJECTIVES.

4. WITH REGARD BAMAKO'S REFTEL CONCERNING MIT VISIT BAMAKO, I SUGGEST FEI SEND KUNIHOLM WHATEVER GUIDANCE KONATE AND FEI TOGETHER CAN DEVISE BUT KEEPING IN MIND DAKOURE'S VIEWS AS REPORTED OUAGADOUGOU 2310 AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT CONVERSATION BETWEEN FEI AND DAKOURE NEXT WEEK MAY REQUIRE CHANGED ARRANGEMENTS.

5. SAHEL GOVERNMENTS HAVE ALL BEEN UNDER EXTREMELY HEAVY PRESSURE SINCE SEPTEMBER MEETINGS IN OUAGADOUGOU. THEY HAVE BEEN BESEIGED BY EXPERTS, FACT-FINDING TEAMS, HIGH LEVEL AID EMISSARIES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, PRIVATE GROUPS, ETC., ETC. WHEREAS I UNDERSTAND AID'S CONCERN THAT MIT GET ITS FEET WET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN THE SAHEL REGION, SHOEHORNING MIT INTO OUAGADOUGOU ON TEN DAYS NOTICE WOULD HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY MALADROIT. WE CANNOT PERMIT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SAHEL'S DROUGHT IS IN THE SERVICE OF WASHINGTON'S TIMETABLE, NO MATTER HOW CONVINCED WE ARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE LONG TERM SOLUTIONS WE ALL SEEK.
EASUM

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